



Catching waves

'Surfing Santa' heads out for 26th annual sail



Busy at Peace Bridge

Hockey fans and shoppers flock to Buffalo



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Saturday, January 1, 2011

Christmas Eve blaze



On Christmas Eve, around 3:30 p.m., the Fort Erie Fire Department (FEFD) responded to a fire at a residence along the Niagara Parkway. This week, the FEFD estimated the damage to be in the range of \$5 million.

Fire destroys home

FEFD estimates damage at Niagara Parkway mansion is in the range of five million dollars

Kris Dubé
The Times

A Christmas Eve blaze at a mansion along the Niagara Parkway, has caused about \$5 million in damage, estimates the Fort Erie Fire Department (FEFD).

"That number will probably go higher, but that's where we're at so far," explained deputy fire chief Keith German on Wednesday.

Contributing to the huge cost of damages is a collection of antique cars in a garage at the rear of the house.

"They were quite rare," said German.

The home belongs to the family of Jim Miller, one of the owners of Miller's Auto Recycling.

German said a limited water supply and the rate of speed the fire grew made things difficult for the FEFD.

See Page 2

Kim Craitor MPP

FORT ERIE NIAGARA FALLS NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

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Five stations within the FEFD were dispatched to the Christmas Eve fire on the Niagara Parkway. Firefighters were there for about eight hours.

Cause of fire difficult to pinpoint, says FEFD

From Page 1

In some cases, the fire department is able to use water from the Niagara River but for this situation, it wasn't possible because of the steep incline at the water's edge in this area.

"It would have been very difficult to get a truck close to the water to get it out," he said.

Considering the blaze started and the call was dispatched just as many firefighters were likely getting ready to head out to family functions, German said it didn't change the morale of the fire department's members because they all know this is part of what they signed up for.

"That doesn't bother the guys too much, because that's part of what they are there for," he said.

German said there was a sense of loss with some

“What started it we will never know, because that part of the building is completely destroyed.”

— Keith German

of the firefighters, who feel they could have done more to limit the amount of damage to the home... but having to haul water from a hydrant "in town" and dealing with a fire that grew so rapidly, is something that was out of the FEFD's control.

"We couldn't save much, but we didn't do anything wrong," he said.

The homeowners first contacted the FEFD when

they noticed smoke coming from an area of the house where there is a sauna. German said it is safe to say this is where the fire originated but the cause will be difficult to pinpoint.

"We have to suspect that's where it started," said German.

"What started it, we will never know because that part of the building is completely destroyed," added German.

Fortunately, no one was injured in the blaze and German said those in the house at the time did the right thing by going outside and immediately contacting authorities.

"If you have smoke in the building, get out because it can take over so fast," he said.

Mayor Doug Martin, a family friend of the Miller's said he and everyone else who knows them is thankful for everyone's safety.

"Things can be replaced, people can't," he said.

Martin said they did the right thing by leaving the house right away and calling the fire department, who deserve appreciation for their hard work on the scene.

"We're very proud of our firefighters," said Martin.



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Please join us in congratulating these individuals for their success in passing the 2010 Uniform Final Evaluation (UFE). The UFE is the final educational requirement leading to the Chartered Accountant designation. We look forward to the continued growth of these individuals in their professional careers.

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Matt Miedus, I.Ac. (Hamilton)
Robert Neill, U.Ac. (Chet. Management Committee)
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'Surfing Santa' continues to catch waves

Kris Dubé
The Times

Some people play the traditional Santa Claus, fielding requests from children at the mall about gifts.

John Fulton's depiction of the holiday figure is a little more adventurous and has been for the last 26 years as 'Surfing Santa' hits the Niagara River in his annual stunt raising money and awareness for homelessness.

It started in the 1980's as part of his windsurfing school but has now grown into an event that gets attention from all over the world.

In 2002, Fulton was apprehended by border officials after stepping on American soil to repair his sail.

Even though he called into authorities to notify them of the nature of his stunt and that he wouldn't be attempting to enter another country he was still questioned.

“

I'm good for about three or four hours out there.”

— John Fulton

The incident made headlines and national U.S. TV newscasts and was the biggest wave he has had to overcome since his first run.

"I'll be living that one down until the day I die," he said while warming up from his last dip on Dec. 23 in a phone interview from Aruba.

Growing up in Fort Erie, Fulton said he spent a lot of time in the river and knows what areas are more safe than others. To battle the frigid temperatures, he wears a heavy-duty wetsuit, gloves and all the other necessary

protective gear, also worn by underwater recovery units.

"I'm good for about three or four hours out there," he said.

Another memorable run for Fulton was only two years ago when heavy snow that closed both the Peace Bridge and the Queen Elizabeth Way still didn't get in his way and he went ahead with his scheduled surf even though spectators and most members of the media didn't make it out.

"Nobody came out because nobody could get here," he said.

The idea of providing help to homeless people derives from a tradition he has with his children, stuffing backpacks with items and handing them to needy people on the street. Now, it is the focus of his campaign.

"It started out as an idea, trying to get my kids interested in volunteerism," he said.



John Fulton, also known as Surfing Santa heads out into Lake Erie on Dec. 23, before heading into the Niagara River. This is the 26th year for his adventure.

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Helpful during the holidays



Mrs. DiBartolomeo, left Father Stanley, Millissa Taylor, Naomi Pielt, Christian Gifford and Ms. Pinelli took time during their lunch to pose for a quick shot in front of the Christmas tree last week, as students from St. George Catholic School helped raise donations for St. Vincent de Paul during the holiday season.

Christmas cheque



This holiday season, Lakeshore Catholic High School (LCHS) provided gifts and money to a variety of charities in the region. One of the beneficiaries was Community Outreach Program Erie (COPE). On Dec. 23, LCHS chaplain Kathy Mistry presented a cheque to COPE's Barb Volzke for \$860.

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Backlog at the bridge into Buffalo

➤ Tuesday the busiest day at Peace Bridge, according to stats known before press time

Fans at the World Junior Hockey Championships in Buffalo have been enjoying high scores for most of the tournament so far.

If they travelled from Canada, they experienced scores of cars waiting to cross the border.

At the Peace Bridge, numbers compared to last year are

up considerably, says Peace Bridge Authority (PBA) director of communications Matt Davison.

On Boxing Day, about 19,000 vehicles crossed the local gateway and the next day about 18,000 people used the bridge.

Volumes were highest on Tuesday within the statistics provided, as about 22,500 motor vehicles crossed the Peace Bridge. The influx in traffic is due to the World Junior

Hockey Championships, people going shopping and families heading out of the country for vacation.

Youths charged after gun thefts in Crystal Beach

During the early morning hours of Wednesday, uniform patrol officers at district no. 5 were notified by an alert citizen that three youths had been seen carrying

what appeared to be several long gun cases. Uniform and canine officers quickly responded to the area to search for the males.

Further investigation by the police revealed that a Crystal Beach residence had been broken into and firearms were stolen from it.

All the stolen firearms have been recovered and three male young offenders were arrested and face numerous charges.

The youths were processed at no. 3 district Welland and will be held in custody pending a bail hearing and released to

appear at court in the future.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Youth Criminal Justice Act the three youths cannot be named.



Motorists spent hours waiting to enter the U.S. at the Peace Bridge on several occasions this week. Seen here is congestion before the World Junior Canadian team's first game, against Russia, on Boxing Day.

Happy New Year and Safe Surfing...



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opinion page

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our editorial

Let's hear your opinion on local issues

The Times would like to hear from you.

We know the Times is the most read local newspaper, indicated by a survey conducted by the Business Success and Loan Centre.... So that's why we are saying we want to get our readers more involved.

In the last few weeks you will have noticed on the opinion page that a more diverse range of authors are submitting letters on various topics.

We want that to continue and hope this isn't going to slow down anytime soon.

We appreciate everything that is submitted to us and mean no disrespect to anyone who could be considered a "regular" over the last few months when it comes to having their letter to the editor printed.

But we have heard feedback

from readers that they would like to hear from different people.

We can't write them ourselves, so in order for that to happen we need to hear from anyone who has a valid opinion on something and isn't reluctant to have the whole town know what's on their mind.

So, let's get started this week-end. If you disagree with comments made by someone in a letter on the next page, don't just tell whoever is sitting across the table from you about it.

Tell us, because we want to hear it.

Please email your letters to editorial@forterietimes.com.

Hard copies can also be dropped by our office on Garrison Road.

-Kris Dubé



Do You Remember?

Unfortunately, last week's photo of the three ladies and the giant Christmas stocking received no response, so the picture will return to the binders of unidentified photographs.

These binders are always available for viewing at the Fort Erie

Historical Museum and remember, it's never too late to contact us to identify someone... or even yourself.

This week's photo features a man and a woman plating food in what appears to be a kitchen.

The back of the photo is stamped with the date

February 14, 1979.

Can anyone tell us the names of the people or anything else about the picture?

If you are able to help, please contact the Fort Erie Historical Museum by phone at (905) 894-5322 or by e-mail at museum@forterie.on.ca.

People in news industry have emotions too



Kris Dubé
Editor's Notebook

This is one of the toughest situations I have ever been put in as someone in the news industry.

On Christmas Eve, I

was sitting around the house getting ready to attend mass at St. Michael's Church when I learned about the fire you have already read about in this week's issue.

When I arrived on scene, I felt sick to my stomach. Honestly.

I've seen my fair share of blazes during my time here, but never have I seen something like this. But more importantly,

I've never felt the way I did after covering something for the Times.

In the late afternoon on Christmas Eve, people everywhere were getting ready for dinner that night or just relaxing in preparation for the next day's events.

Only one local family was watching their home, built by years of hard work crumble to the ground.

When I learned that nobody was injured in the incident, it was a weight off my shoulders.

Whether you work for a newspaper, a TV station or some other media outlet, you need thick skin as sometimes you are faced with covering bad news and can be exposed to things like watching someone's house burn to the ground.

When it is on

Christmas Eve...it's something that doesn't sit right. At least it didn't with me.

As I have written recently, it is important this time of year to be more grateful for family and the well-being of the people around you, compared to material items.

This story is the epitome of why this opinion should be taken seriously.

There likely were

many memories stored in boxes and photo albums inside the house that can't be replaced...but at least everyone made it outside safe and sound and things didn't end up much worse than they possibly could have.

If you would like to leave me feedback, call me at 905 871 3100 ext. 207 or send me an email at editorial@forterietimes.com

opinion page

Be careful around harmful algae

Dear Editor,

This past summer was a beautiful summer with huge attendance at our Bay Beach, but a turn off for anybody wanting to use Waverly Beach, was the presence of blue and green algae...lot's of it.

There was so much that the local residents took it into their hands to clean up this intruder with help from Town of Fort Erie, supplying the trucks.

This algae was found all around the rim of Lake Erie, in Ohio with many cities like Cleveland,

Toledo, and Ashtabula contributing to this bloom of algae. It was found also, within inland lakes and ponds. What is disturbing is the algae has been blamed for over twenty deaths in Ohio. After testing this algae, it was found to be toxic. Just like its cousin, red tide... the toxic algae found in the Atlantic Ocean, which caused a huge dead zone, resulting in the death of birds and fish.

The Great Lakes now has two varieties of non-native mussels, zebra and quagga mussels, they filter out the water digesting

algae and other microscopic particles, storing up toxic elements. The quagga is food for the common goby, another invasive species of fish, which in turn is food for gulls and herons. I feel that if they clean up the Waverly Beach next summer, the volunteers should wear rubber gloves, plastic rain gear, with face masks so they don't breathe in hazardous toxins. Also, extreme care should be taken, in disposing of this algae.

George Jardine
Stevensville

The TIMES Asks

What is your New Year's resolution?



Jordan Air

"To be smarter with money."



Chris Heaton

"Making sure I keep spending time with family and friends."



Harrison Heaton

"To play with more toys."



Torrey Sowden

"To help family and be safe."

What do you think?

E-mail: editorial@forterietimes.com or call 905-871-3100, ext. 207

Health care fight continues Reader agrees with recent letters

Dear Editor,

Another year is almost history and, looking back, you can see where we have made a difference in our health care by not giving up and just letting it happen. We have, and will continue, to fight for our rights as Canadians, to have equal accessible health care. They cannot ignore us and just turn their backs on us, as we will not just go away. It takes all of us working together to make change. No one person can do it! 2010 has shown what

happens when community hospitals have their acute beds and emergency rooms closed. What did they think would happen when over 50,000 people were forced to go to outlying hospitals for the services that were available to them where they lived?

What did they think would happen when they closed beds in the remaining hospitals and announce that the services in them would also be closed and moved?

Well they should have thought longer and harder, as the long wait times, the

people being held in corridors, and the infectious diseases are only increasing, and they have lost the trust and respect of thousands living in Ontario.

We cannot just accept what is happening, and what will happen, regarding our hospitals, our services and our lives.

We cannot just sit back and not dispute decisions that are made about money and not about lives.

Joy Russell
Yellow Shirt Brigade

Dear Editor,

I certainly agree with the recent letters to the Fort Erie Times from Mr. Dimberio and most recently Robert Culp. I too was present at the PC Niagara riding nomination meeting held recently and was shocked at the lobbying going on by the anti-Annuziata group, by all reports being directed by the defeated Fort Erie mayoral candidate and her supporters.

Mr. Annuziata was no the only loser; Fort Erie is the "BIG loser" as a

result of this fiasco. His loss was a missed opportunity to accomplish some great things on behalf of the town of Fort Erie.

As aptly expressed by Mr. Culp, it reflects the thinking of a small-minded and petty group of people, just for revenge.

As a result, Fort Erie is left with the reputation of being a small-minded town.

Oh, one more thing - what kind of a Christmas message was in the paper this past week from this same mayoral candidate?

Instead of simply

wishing Christmas Greetings to all, it was just another "thank you" to all of her supporters and another one of her political statements.

It had nothing to do with Seasons Greetings. She said she is "grateful for all the patience and support waiting for the results of the anticipated manual recount we continue to pursue".

Is this not a political statement? Enough already! I'm tired of it.

Sandra Rempel
Fort Erie

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2011
Happy New Year!



Heather Bauer, owner of the Boutique Movie Theatre in Ridgeway, on Ridge Road.

There's something for everyone at theatre

➤ Theatre owner feels her place of business is a necessity to the community

Marc MacDonald
The Times

Throughout history, movie theatres have evolved, constantly changing based on the needs of those who fill their seats.

For Heather Bauer, she too has witnessed this change and decided to give those in the area an opportunity to view their favourite films in a very unique setting.

Showing the big box office hits as well as classics, Bauer got the theatre up and running based on necessity.

"We didn't have anything because most small towns lost their movie theatres when we went big box," she said. "I wanted to do something that brought us back

“ I wanted to do something that brought us back to the community so we don't have to constantly leave for entertainment.”

— Heather Bauer

Into the community so we don't have to constantly leave for entertainment.”

Over and above the showing of films, the Boutique Movie Theatre also offers private functions such as birthday parties, workshops and corporate events.

With two screens, 40 seats per theatre and a charm that cannot be matched by the larger theatres, Bauer is doing her best to recreate the days of

old. "It's like old times again when kids would walk to the movie theatre and be able to pay for their dates," she said. "It's nice to have that and because we are such a small community I think the parents feel comfortable letting their kids come to the movies without having to be there to supervise them all the time - we're trying to create a family feel that is comfortable and intimate."

As with every business located on Ridge Road during the summer's busy construction, Bauer felt the strain of having access to her business become a challenge, but says she can't complain.

"I'm very happy," said Bauer of the muddy completed construction. "It needed to be done, and I'm glad it was done and done so quickly."

Looking ahead, Bauer says she wishes she had her crystal ball to tell her what to expect, but at the same time is excited to year number two, noting that community support has been outstanding.

With school children enjoying their holidays, Bauer says that there are three family films that will be shown all week that will appeal to children and their parents a like.

And sure to cater to everyone, there will be a Girls Night on Jan. 27, a popular event that requires you to purchase your tickets prior to the date, as the event sells out quickly says Bauer. The movie for girls night will be Thelma and Louise.

For movie times, titles and other information visit www.boutique-movies.com.

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Traffic By-law No. 2000-89, Section 205 provides that "No person shall park a vehicle or permit a vehicle to remain parked" on any street in Town "between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. between November 1, 2010 and March 31, 2011.

The Town's By-law Enforcement Officers will be exercising vigilant enforcement of By-law No. 2000-89. Your vehicle will be issued a parking ticket and could be towed, at your expense, if found in violation of the by-law.

Enquiries may be directed to the Town's By-law Enforcement Officers by calling (905) 871-1600, Extension 2216 (Geoff Stephenson) or Extension 2215 (Jack Cox).

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Fender bender



On Wednesday, the Fort Erie Fire Department, Niagara Emergency Medical Services and Niagara Regional Police responded to a motor vehicle collision on Garrison Road. Two people were transported to the hospital with minor injuries.

Gift of Love



Humayoon Anwar, left, receives a bundle of gifts from volunteers with the Fort Erie Kinsmen Club's Gift of Love Campaign, in the basement of the Salvation Army on Gilmore Road last week. The annual initiative raises toys for needy families.



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Councillor wants review

Kris Dubé
The Times

Efficiencies within the Town of Fort Erie need to be examined, says one of council's newest members.

At the first meeting for the new group of local politicians in early December, Ward 4 Coun. John Hill brought forward a notice of motion for a third-party operational review of all Town departments, including the Community Gaming and Development Corporation.

While on the campaign trail before the Oct. 25 election, Hill said he heard from voters

that they wanted to know if their money is being spent properly.

"It was made clear to me, as residents face mounting financial pressures, they want to be assured their tax dollars are being spent as efficiently as possible," said Hill.

If moving ahead with the review is agreed to be a necessary direction by his colleagues on council, Hill said it will be a way to expose the skill and knowledge already existing within the departments, and will perhaps find new ways to take advantage of them.

"I'm sure there are a lot of



I'm sure there are a lot of strengths within our operation."

— John Hill

strengths within our operation," he said.

Hill feels asking for an investigation into how town departments can operate more effectively and efficient-

ly should not be perceived as a negative suggestion, saying that is a common 'misconception' about operational reviews.

"Why wouldn't you, as an operation, want to ensure that you are maximizing your efficiency to the best of your ability?"

In 2008, Ward 3 Coun. Bob Steckley made a similar motion, but the council of the time voted against it for concerns about how much it would cost, which was estimated to be around \$80,000.

The current council will consider Hill's motion in the new year.

Trim off the top



Last week, Garrison Road Public School student Daniel Tache, trimmed off his locks in front of the whole school, donating them to Wigs for Kids.



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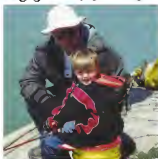
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Birthday greetings



BORN TO FISH
Happy 13th Birthday Carter
Love, Grandpa, Grandma,
Mommy and family



Happy Sweet 16
Paisley
January 2nd
Love Mom

Deaths

NEWTON, Patricia J. 55 of Englewood, Florida died December 24, 2010 in Sarasota, Florida. She was born March 18, 1955 in Newmarket, Ontario, Canada to Edwin W. and T. Jacqui (Brown) Chadwick.

She moved to the Englewood area from Toronto, Canada. She was co-founder of Newton Studio's and the Englewood Review.

Patricia was a member of Clowns of America International, she was a professional clown, known as "Pitter Pat" and a face and body painting artist.

She is survived by her husband of 23 years, Thomas C. "Tom" Newton of Englewood, Florida; her children, James C. Newton and Katherine T. Newton both of Englewood; her father, Edwin W. Chadwick of Fort Erie, Ontario, Canada and her brother, Terry E. (Dorothy) Chadwick of Bay Village, Ohio. She was predeceased by her mother, T. Jacqui (Brown) Chadwick.

A memorial service was held on Thursday, December 30, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. at Englewood United Methodist Church. Memorial donations may be made in Patricia's name to, Circus Sarasota/Laughter Unlimited, 9251 15th Street, East, Sarasota, Florida 34243.

LEMON BAY FUNERAL HOME has been selected to handle the arrangements. You may express your condolences to the family at lemonbayfh.com

*Down a road that's calm and peaceful,
Guided by God's loving hand,
He has gone upon a journey
To a distant, brighter land.
And although our hearts are heavy
With sorrow we still bear,
It helps to bring us comfort,
Knowing he is happy there.*

Memoriam Verse #2
To remember a loved one with this verse
Call **1-866-541-6757** Today

Deaths

REID, Betty (nee Trench) - Suddenly at the Greater Niagara General Hospital, Niagara Falls Ontario, Tuesday December 21st, 2010 in her 91st year. Beloved wife of the late Vernon Reid (1965). Loving mother of Dave (Linda) Reid of Fort Erie and Sharon (John) Kane of Hamilton. Loved Grandma of Jim, Susan, Tiffany (Doug), Jason (Brenna) and Great-grandma of Joshua, Halle, Kobe, Virginia and Shelby. Visitation at **THE HAMMOND-DAVISON FUNERAL HOME**, 21 Wintermute Street, Fort Erie on Friday, December 24th, 1:00-2:00 p.m. followed by funeral service in the chapel at 2:00 p.m. Cremation with inurnment at Elmwood Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Kenmore New York. In lieu of flowers, if so desired donations to The Heart & Stroke Foundation of The Alzheimer Society would be appreciated. Online condolences at www.hammond-davisonfuneralhome.com

SPEIGHT, Tony - It is with deep sadness that the family of Tony Speight (Dexter Whipple) announces his passing at the age of 52. He is predeceased by his loving mother Gloria and is survived by and will be sadly missed by his father Sam (Shirley) Speight, sister Jean Ellis and family in Portland, Oregon, sister Penny (Doug) Fraser and his three nephews, D.J. Jake and Nick, whom he adored. Tony also leaves behind many relatives and friends, and is survived by his dog and loyal companion, Miller. At Tony's request cremation has taken place, and a graveside service has been held. Arrangements entrusted to **NIAGARA FUNERAL ALTERNATIVES** 905-894-0120.

*There is a sad and sweet remembrance,
There is memory fond and true;
There is a token of affection
And of a heartache still for you.*

Memoriam Verse #35
To remember a loved one with this verse
Call **1-866-541-6757** Today

Deaths

TWITCHIN, Frank William - passed away peacefully at home on December 24, 2010 in his 78th year. Predeceased by his daughter Deflene Stubbs and grandson Chad Gibson. Frank is survived by his wife Mavis, sister Helen McPhee, daughter Karen Gibson, grandson Robbie Gibson and granddaughters Nicole and Holly Stubbs. Cremation is to take place. There will be a private family ceremony in Scarborough at a later date. Frank was much loved and enjoyed the company of his many relatives and friends. Special thanks to Dr. Scher of Douglas Memorial Hospital and the home care he arranged, namely Elizabeth and Kim. On-line guest register at www.williamsfuneralhome.ca



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Thank You Cards

Thank You!

To pastor Dave for prayers and trips to the hospital, and all who prayed for us, sent cards, flowers, food and visits, for the great care at the Fort Erie Hospital and our wonderful family. Special thank you to Bob during my recent surgery. May God Bless each and everyone of you right down to Chubbis, Harley, Maggie and Moe.
-Sincerely Olive Graham.



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In memoriam



Remembering Reilly-Lynn Kennedy Anzovino

Reilly, how do we say goodbye to you when your life it just began. You have had such an impact on our family, friends and your community. You have an inner beauty and outer beauty and were like a magnet entering a room. You're warmth, smile and positive outlook so wise beyond your years, and loved so greatly. A tribute to you Reilly, who is so important in our lives and never fully acknowledged until now.

Heaven and Earth they have collided
And Earth has lost the war
Heaven took with it an angel
Earth will mourn forever more.

Mother Nature played her hand in this
Surely at God's request
For his angels up in Heaven
He called upon Earth's best.

Our chain it has been broken
And it's lost the charm so bright
Fallen like a soldier
Robbed, one cold dark winter's night.

Here're dangling arms that wrapped
around our family like a glove
Your gift of laughter, gift of light
Known for your famous hugs.

Reilly we'd move Heaven and Earth
to have you, just one more day.
Heaven's new unsung hero
To you at night we pray.

Peace and love be with you
Faith on Heaven's flight
Hugs to you in Heaven
And sweet dreams to you each night.

We love you Reilly always.
Our lives will never be the same.

Written by Aunt Lynn XO

Remembered by all your family and friends

*Time takes away the edge of grief,
But memory turns back every least.*

Memoriam Verse #59
To remember a loved one with this verse
Call 1-866-541-6757 Today

In memoriam



Ryan Cecil Antone

January 1, 1987 - December 31, 2006
In loving memory of my dear grandson, son,
uncle and nephew.

As time goes by without you and days turn
into years, they hold a million memories and
a thousand silent tears.
To us you were so special, what more is
there to say, except we wish with all hearts,
that you were here with us today.

Lovingly remembered by:
Mom, Dad, sister Tiffany, niece Kadenec,
grandmother Shirley,
uncle Kim & Nate,
cousins Maddox & Ethan.

*Although we smile and make no fuss
No one misses him more than us
And when old times we oft recall,
It's then we miss you most of all.*

Memoriam Verse #19
To remember a loved one with this verse
Call 1-866-541-6757 Today



*Those we love we never lose
For always they will be
Loved, remembered, treasured,
in our memory.
That's a loving God knows best.*

Memoriam Verse #50
To remember a loved one with this verse
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Meteors stomped by Welland 8-1

Passero says team is staying positive for remainder of season

Mark MacDonald
The Times

Looking for a belated gift on Boxing Day, the Fort Erie Meteors received a lump of coal instead, coming in the form of an 8-1 loss to the Welland Jr. Canadians.

It was evident that Meteors were in trouble from the get go, as they started the game down a man, a result of a delay of game bench minor that was assessed before the opening drop.

Coming out of the dressing room under a minute late, the referee assessed the Meteors a two-minute penalty, which general manager Tony Passero says put them "behind the eight ball from the very start."

Welland would take advantage of the Meteors mishap and capitalize on their first of three power play goals just 22 seconds in, the beginnings of what

turned into a very long first period for Fort Erie.

"We started off mad and the period just kept getting worse from there," said Passero.

Just 19 seconds after the opening goal the Jr. Canadians would strike again, as Mike Marquis, who torched the Meteors for four goals and two assists, was able to put one home and made it clear which team would secure momentum.

"The bubble got burst pretty quick," said Passero.

After the first period finally came to a close the Meteors settled in and played a much stronger game, outshooting Welland in the final two periods and only being outscored by a 2-1 margin.

But, as has been the case for the Meteors all year long, playing a full 60 minutes of disciplined, consistent hockey has posed a major problem.

"The [second and third period] was close and it wasn't because they weren't trying to score any more, because they were," said Passero.

"We played much better

in those periods, but it's a lack of scoring that is the big problem."

With a break in the action until Jan. 5 - their Jan. 2 home game versus Stoney Creek has been rescheduled for February - the Meteors will enjoy the time off to get healthy for the final stretch of the season.

"We've got some injuries and some guys who are sick so this time off will help us," said Passero of the break. "We just have to look at things as positive as we can going into the final 20 games."

Christmas hampers



Volunteers with the Salvation Army on Gilmore Road taking a break from distributing Christmas hampers last week.

Bricks & Bouquets

If you have a brick or bouquet send it to editorial@forterietimes.com or phone 905-871-3100, ext. 210 and leave a message

Brick To people who are onto the plane and holding up everyone who is complaining about the amount of time they had to wait on the Peace Bridge on their way to the World Junior Hockey Championships in Buffalo. If you are a fan of international hockey, you should know that this tournament is touted as one of the most important for the sport and realize you are one of thousands upon thousands of people who are entering the U.S. via the Peace Bridge for the event. Leave earlier.

Bouquet To everyone who is more concerned with the health and happiness of the people close to them, instead of the price tag of items they opened under the Christmas tree.

Brick To people who make air travel during the holiday season difficult for others by bringing multiple carry-on bags with them

onto the plane and holding up everyone who is trying to get to their seats.

Bouquet To families who are volunteering themselves as billets for the hockey team who is visiting Fort Erie from Denmark. Without your hospitality, this bi-annual tradition would not be possible.

Brick To parents who don't control their troubled children and don't interfere when they know they are out all night causing trouble. There is crime everywhere you go and this doesn't just apply to our town, but it needs to be stopped wherever you live.

Bouquet To everyone who came together at the last minute to provide Christmas gifts for the grand-daughter of the owners of the home that burned down on the Niagara Parkway on Christmas Eve.

The Fort Erie Times

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Times wants to hear from sports teams

Are you a proud parent that wants your child's sports team to be recognized in the Fort Erie Times?

If you even considered answering 'yes' to the above question, then perhaps you should consider telling us about it, by scheduling us to attend a game for photos.

You can even submit stories and photos of your own if we are unable to make it to the game.

Minor sports in Greater

Fort Erie are an important part of a child's life experience and having their accomplishments printed in Fort Erie's most read newspaper is something that could make your child's team strive to do even better than it has already.

If you have a photo or story ready for submission, send it to editorial@forterietimes.com or give editor Kris Dubé a call at (905) 871-3100 ext. 207.

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